

PHI SIGMA IOTA
The International Foreign Language Honor Society
Spring Newsletter: May 2009
Volume 1, Number 1

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President Lucente urges broad participation from membership: At the annual meeting of the Executive Board in Erie, Pennsylvania, on January 22 and 23, incoming Phi Sigma Iota president Carla Lucente made clear that the organization will need exceptionally broad participation if it is to keep pace with growing membership. As the only honor society that serves all post-secondary fields in which foreign language proficiency is an important component, Phi Sigma Iota inducts students in anthropology, art history, Classics, communications, education, ESL, history, linguistics, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology, in addition to students in both commonly and less commonly taught foreign languages. This membership diversity gives the organization a wide scope of interests to address. Linking members to professional opportunities, bringing foreign language faculty and students into contact with each other and with counterparts at other institutions, offering students a way to discuss and shape foreign language education, providing a forum for students and faculty of less commonly taught languages, all while honoring student achievement in foreign language studies: the Phi Sigma Iota mission is daunting. President Lucente pointed out that, though the demands are great, service to the organization brings the gratification of seeing foreign language study flourish at the post-secondary level. She invited members who wish to serve in an elected capacity to contact her at

The Forum to return: Remember the glossy periodical with its Chapter News, profiles of members, feature articles by faculty and students, and announcements of forthcoming Phi Sigma Iota events? Well, *The Forum*, the annual publication of Phi Sigma Iota, is back by popular demand. The projected renaissance date is January 2010, in both electronic and hard copy formats. We are ready to receive submissions, the sooner the better. Send your news, insights and anecdotes in electronic copy, preferably Microsoft Word 2007 or higher, to Susan Rosenstreich at rosensts@dowling.edu. *The Forum* is a real forum, so it's good to know we'll be hearing from it again soon.

Rutgers University Chapter strikes it rich! If attendance at Phi Sigma Iota public service events were measured in money, the Rutgers Sigma Sigma Chapter would need the people from Brinks. Apparently, chapter officers Alexandra Rondon, Peter Chung and Kari Setzer were expecting 15 students to show up for the chapter's career-night event. But when they counted bodies, over 100 students came to hear guest speakers from several corporations, the Peace Corps and a federally certified legal interpreter and translator. The chapter plans to repeat the event next year.

Allegheny College Chapter remembers Henry Church, Phi Sigma Iota founder. Phi Sigma Iota recently moved its central office to Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Allegheny's Chapter Advisor Professor Phillip Wolfe found the coincidence between the move and Phi Sigma Iota's founder, Henry Church, a perfect theme for the chapter's recent induction ceremony. "I thought it only right on this occasion to say a few words about our founder, Professor Henry Church, who taught French at Allegheny for nineteen years, from 1919 to 1938," remarked Professor Wolfe. Church received all his diplomas, BA, MA, PhD., from the University of Michigan, from 1908 to 1915. Though he taught French at Allegheny, his master's degree was in German. Interestingly for those of us who believe musical ability and language proficiency are related, Church also had a diploma in organ from the University of Michigan. In fact, he often gave organ recitals at Allegheny University's Ford Chapel.

Church taught at Monmouth College in Illinois from 1912 to 1918. When war was declared, he enlisted and spent a year in France. Returning to the United States after World War One, he accepted a position at Allegheny College, where in 1922 he founded Phi Sigma Iota, of which he was president until his death in 1938.

"I suspect that Church was a stubborn man and a conscientious teacher, conscientious to a fault," observed Professor Wolfe. When told that he had cancer and needed an operation, Church refused to schedule it during the school year. He finished the semester and had the operation in July. Unfortunately it was too late, and he died on July 12, 1938. He had concealed the gravity of his condition from his son so that the young man would not be distracted from his once-in-a-lifetime study-abroad experience.

Luckily for Phi Sigma Iota, Allegheny College continues to value foreign language education, and has given the organization a warm return welcome.

Note to Chapter Advisors: Phi Sigma Iota Administrative Director Roz Macken reminds Chapter Advisors that they should send their yearly financial reports to her at:

contact@phisigmaiota.org

This year-end chore is made less onerous if chapters combine it with sending in activity reports for the upcoming issue of *The Forum*.